

1 among State agencies, local public school systems, and existing providers of early
2 childhood education and child care; now, therefore,

3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
4 MARYLAND, That:

5 (a) There is a Task Force on the Role of Alternative Providers in Supporting
6 the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act.

7 (b) The Task Force shall be composed of 13 members as follows:

8 (1) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
9 the House;

10 (2) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
11 the Senate;

12 (3) the Secretary of the Department of Human Resources, or the
13 Secretary's designee;

14 (4) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's
15 designee;

16 (5) the Special Secretary for the Governor's Office for Children, Youth,
17 and Families, or the Special Secretary's designee;

18 (6) a representative from the Maryland Association of Boards of
19 Education;

20 (7) a representative from the Public School Superintendents Association
21 of Maryland;

22 (8) a representative from the Maryland Association of Counties;

23 (9) a representative from the Maryland Committee for Children, Inc.;

24 (10) a representative from the Maryland State Child Care Association;

25 (11) a representative from the Maryland State Family Care Association;

26 (12) a representative from the organization, Ready at Five; and

27 (13) a member from the general public.

28 (c) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force from among
29 its members.

30 (d) The Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families shall provide staff
31 support to the Task Force.

32 (e) The Task Force shall:

1 (1) survey existing alternative early learning and child care providers to
2 determine their capacity and capability to provide prekindergarten and kindergarten
3 services required under the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act;

4 (2) review the capacity of local school systems to meet the requirements
5 under the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act for prekindergarten and
6 kindergarten services for the 2007-2008 school year and each school year thereafter;

7 (3) review the master plans submitted by local school systems to meet
8 the requirements under the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act for
9 prekindergarten and kindergarten services for the 2007-2008 school year and each
10 school year thereafter, and the extent to which the master plans leverage the capacity
11 and capability of alternative early learning and child care providers to meet the
12 requirements under the Act;

13 (4) review best practices in other states in utilizing alternative early
14 learning and child care providers to provide prekindergarten and kindergarten
15 services for public school students;

16 (5) identify any obstacles in the State in utilizing the capability of
17 alternative early learning and child care providers as part of an overall strategy to
18 provide prekindergarten and kindergarten services required under the Bridge to
19 Excellence in Public Schools Act and the practicable and feasible steps that would be
20 necessary to overcome these obstacles, including the associated costs;

21 (6) identify the potential costs and savings for the State and for local
22 governments if alternative early learning and child care providers are enabled to
23 work in collaboration with local school systems to provide prekindergarten and
24 kindergarten services required by the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act;

25 (7) develop a report and series of recommendations for the Governor and
26 the General Assembly to enable alternative early learning and child care providers to
27 provide prekindergarten and kindergarten services required under the Bridge to
28 Excellence in Public Schools Act in collaboration with local school systems;

29 (8) assist the Governor and State and local agencies in implementing the
30 recommendations developed by the Task Force; and

31 (9) take other action as necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of
32 the Task Force.

33 (f) A member of the Task Force:

34 (1) may not receive compensation; but

35 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
36 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

1 (g) The Task Force shall submit a report of its activities, findings, and
2 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
3 Government Article, to the General Assembly by December 1, 2004.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
5 effect July 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of
6 June 30, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall
7 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.